

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A device, comprising:
 - 2 a plurality of wireless network adapters;
 - 3 a sense driver adapted to sense an operational state of at least two of the
 - 4 plurality of wireless network adapters; and
 - 5 a policy manager adapted to receive state information from the sense driver
 - 6 and to selectively activate at least one of the plurality of wireless
 - 7 network adapters based on the state information.
- 1 2. The device of claim 1, wherein the policy manager is adapted to selectively hold
2 at least one of a non-selected group of the plurality of wireless network adapters in
3 a reduced power state, and wherein the non-selected group does not include an
4 activated one of the plurality of wireless network adapters.
- 1 3. The device of claim 1, wherein the policy manager is adapted to store a hierarchy
2 of preferred wireless network adapters.
- 1 4. The device of claim 3, wherein the policy manager is further adapted to
2 selectively activate at least one of the plurality of wireless network adapters based
3 on the hierarchy of preferred wireless network adapters.
- 1 5. The device of claim 4, wherein the policy manager is adapted to be programmed
2 by a user to establish the hierarchy of preferred wireless network adapters.
- 1 6. The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of wireless network adapters include
2 at least one wireless network interface card adapted to operate according to an IEEE
3 802.11x standard.

1 7. The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of wireless network adapters include
2 at least one wireless network interface card adapted to operate according to a
3 general packet radio service standard.

1 8. The device of claim 1, wherein the sense driver is adapted to continuously sense
2 the operational state of each of the plurality of wireless network adapters.

1 9. A device, comprising:
2 a plurality of network adapters;
3 a sensing driver adapted to sense an operational state of at least two of the
4 plurality of network adapters;
5 a policy manager adapted to receive state information from the sensing
6 driver and to selectively activate at least one of the plurality of
7 network adapters based on the state information and a hierarchy of
8 preferred network adapters, the policy manager being adapted to
9 selectively hold others of the plurality of network adapters based on
10 the state information and a hierarchy of preferred network adapters in
11 a reduced power state; and
12 a battery adapted to provide power to at least the plurality of network
13 adapters.

1 10. The device of claim 9, wherein the policy manager is adapted to conserve
2 power in the battery by deactivation of the non-selected ones of the plurality of
3 network adapters.

1 11. The device of claim 10, wherein the battery is adapted to provide power to a
2 host and a user input/output interface.

1 12. The device of claim 11, wherein the battery provides power to run the sensing
2 driver and the policy manager.

1 13. The device of claim 12, wherein the plurality of network adapters includes at
2 least one wireless network adapter.

1 14. The device of claim 9, wherein the selected one of the plurality of network
2 adapters is continuously powered by the battery to maintain a connection with a
3 base-station.

1 15. A method, comprising:
2 storing a hierarchy of network adapters;
3 sensing available network adapters;
4 activating a preferred available, network adapter according to the stored
5 hierarchy; and
6 deactivating at least one of the other available network adapters.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein storing the hierarchy includes programming a
2 network connection priority and a number of preferred available network adapters.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein storing a hierarchy of network adapters
2 includes storing at least one wireless network adapter in the hierarchy, wherein
3 activating the preferred network adapter includes attempting to connect the wireless
4 network adapter to a wireless base-station of a wired network.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein sensing available wireless network adapters
2 includes continuously sensing for newly available wireless network adapters.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein activating a preferred available, network
2 adapter includes deactivating a less preferred network adapter if a more preferred
3 network adapter is sensed to be available.

1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein sensing available network adapters includes
2 continuously sensing whether the connection between the network adapter and the
3 base-station is dropped.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein activating a preferred available, network
2 adapter includes deactivating the preferred network adapter if the connection is
3 dropped and activating a less preferred network adapter.

1 22. The method of claim 15, wherein activating a preferred available, network
2 adapter includes deactivating the preferred network adapter if the preferred network
3 adapter is sensed to be unavailable and activating a next, less preferred network
4 adapter.

1 23. A system, comprising:
2 a wireless base-station;
3 a user device to connect to the wireless base-station, the user device including:
4 a plurality of wireless network adapters;
5 a sense driver adapted to sense an operational state of at least two of the
6 plurality of wireless network adapters; and
7 a policy manager adapted to receive state information from the sense driver
8 and to selectively activate at least one of the plurality of wireless
9 network adapters based on the state information.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the wireless base-station is adapted to
2 communicate in at least one of a group of wireless technologies consisting
3 essentially of General Packet Radio Service, IEEE 802.11x, IEEE 802.2, and IEEE
4 802.3.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of wireless network adapters
2 includes a first wireless network adapter to communicate by General Packet Radio

3 Service, and a second wireless network adapter adapted to communicate by IEEE
4 802.11x .

1 26. The system of claim 23, wherein the policy manager is adapted to be
2 programmed with a network connection priority and a number of preferred available
3 wireless network adapters.

1 27. The system of claim 23, wherein the policy manager is adapted to activate a
2 preferred one of the wireless network adapters that attempts to connect to the base-
3 station.

1 28. The system of claim 23, wherein the sense driver is adapted to continuously
2 sense for newly available wireless network adapters.

1 29. The system of claim 28, wherein the policy manager is adapted to deactivate a
2 less preferred wireless network adapter if a more preferred wireless network adapter
3 is sensed to be available.

1 30. The system of claim 23, wherein the sense driver is adapted to continuously
2 sense whether the connection between the wireless network adapter and the base-
3 station is dropped.

1 31. The system of claim 30, wherein the policy manager is adapted to deactivate the
2 preferred wireless network adapter if the connection is dropped and to activate a less
3 preferred wireless network adapter.